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FBIS TRENDS
19 NOVEMBER 1975

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Moscow, Peking Broadcast Statistics 1

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ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE

USSR SUPPORTS LUANDA GOVERNMENT, CONDEMNS OPPOSING GROUPS

The proclamation of Angola's independence from Portugal on 11 November prompted a predictable outpouring of Soviet media comment supporting the Luanda government formed by Agostinho Neto, leader of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Moscow comment has shown some sensitivity toward African criticism of Soviet involvement in the Angolan civil war, but this did not deter Moscow from acknowledging its assistance to the "fighting Angolan people" in standard Soviet terms, in a message from Soviet President Podgornyy on the 11th that conferred Soviet recognition of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) headed by Neto. Soviet media continue to condemn "splittist" activities by the other two Angolan liberation movements—the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA)—and to complain about alleged foreign intervention in the conflict.

Podgornyy's 11 November message to PRA President Neto declared Moscow's readiness to exchange diplomatic missions at the ambassadorial level and affirmed that the Soviet Union, "discharging its international duty, has invariably been on the side of the fighting Angolan people and has given its patriotic forces all-round assistance and support." A similar formulation was used by Podgornyy last June in his message marking Mozambique independence day.

Several Moscow commentaries have appeared to reflect Soviet defensiveness in the face of African criticism of Moscow's backing for the MPLA. On the 11th, for example, TASS commentator Kulik condemned support to the FNLA and UNITA by "imperialists," Zaire, and South Africa, and expressed "surprise" at "voices heard from several African countries, maintaining that assistance to the MPLA is tantamount to interference in the domestic affairs of Angola." Kulik dismissed the charges by asserting that "assistance to the MPLA is assistance to independent Angola."

Ignoring the refusal by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to back any one of the contesting Angolan factions, a TASS report on the 13th cited Guinean President Sekou Toure as charging that African countries taking a divisive position on the Angolan issue were acting counter to the OAU charter. And on the 18th, a Moscow

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broadcast in French to Africa complained that "certain African leaders" were being "misled" by a "vast campaign of lies and slander" by the "imperialists" and Peking against Soviet policies toward Africa.

TASS observer Yakovlev, in an 18 November article published in PRAVDA, rejected Chinese criticism of Soviet policies in Angola contained in a 15 November PRC Foreign Ministry statement. The article denounced Peking's "bombastic propaganda campaign" and accused the Chinese of colluding with the United States on the Angolan issue "during the recent contacts in Peking." Yakovlev also condemned the Chinese for sending weapons, money, and military instructors to "splittist elements" rather than to the government "recognized by many countries of Africa, Asia, and other continents."

PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT BLAMES MOSCOW FOR CIVIL WAR

A 15 November PRC Foreign Ministry statement hailed Angola's independence from Portugal on 11 November, authoritatively reiterating standard Peking positions on the need for peaceful reconciliation of the three rival Angolan liberation organizations and criticizing Soviet "interference" there. The PRC Foreign Ministry statement followed a 12 November PEOPLE'S DAILY Commentator article scoring Soviet interference in Angola and interference in OAU attempts to mediate between Angolan liberation groups, as well as a 13 November PEOPLE'S DAILY editorial hailing Angolan independence and attacking Soviet involvement. NCNA has also carried an unusually large volume of selective foreign comment on Angola.*

Peking media have not mentioned a message from Mao Tse-tung to OAU Chairman Idi Amin, thus far monitored only from the Kampala radio. According to the radio, Mao thanked Amin for his 12 November message of appreciation for Peking's position on Angola and expressed support for the OAU stand on Angola.

* In the week of 10-16 November, 18 percent of all monitored Peking radio broadcasts dealt with the Angola issue. During the past year, only such major international events as the European Security Conference and the "liberation" of Cambodia and South Vietnam have received greater Peking radio coverage.

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